

REMARKS

Reconsideration and reexamination of this application are respectfully requested.

In an Amendment filed October 23, 2003, claims 56-61, 78-80, 82, 84, 89-94, and 98-114 were canceled, and claims 115-158 added.

In a Notice of Non-Responsive Amendment dated July 14, 2003, the Examiner stated that Amendment was not fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action because some of the new claims recite multiple distinct sequences without making reference to a corresponding SEQ ID NO. In response, Applicants have amended claims 122-128, 134, 140, 141, 143-146, 152, 153, and 156-158 herein to add references to SEQ ID NOS. Applicants note that the references to particular amino acid fragments of SEQ ID NOS: 8 and/or 9 incorporates those amino acid fragments only, is not an incorporation of the remainder of the sequences presented as SEQ ID NOS: 8 or 9, and does not change the scope of the claims in any way.

In the listing of claims applicants have presented the status of the claims as if the previous Reply had been entered and the addition of the SEQ ID NOS. to the claims is a further amendment of the claims. No new matter is introduced by the amendments made herein.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 62-77, 81, 83, 85-88, 95-97, and 115-158 are pending in the application, with claims 62-77, 81, 83, 85-88, and 95-97 withdrawn from consideration.

Applicants maintain the comments made in the previous Office Action.

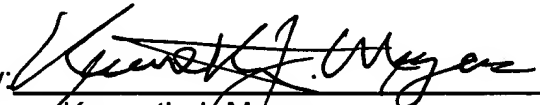
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: August 13, 2004

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